EPI Update for Friday, April 18, 2014 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Tick season has begun
- April is Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Month
- Geographic location and mental status effect on dental health
- New field epidemiologist
- Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Tick season has begun

Ticks in Iowa can carry Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Ehrlichiosis, among others. Tick activity generally increases in spring with warmer temperatures, so please encourage those going into forested or brushy areas, to start taking measures to prevent tick exposure (such as using DEET insect repellent). For more information on how to prevent tick bites and remove ticks, visit:

<u>www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on_people.html</u>. For guidelines on the safe use of insect repellants, visit:

<u>www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=D</u> EET factsheet.

April is Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Month

Nearly 20 million new sexually transmitted infections occur in the United States every year and cost the healthcare system nearly \$16 billion in direct medical costs. Adolescents and young adults suffer disproportionate rates for STDs, accounting for 70 percent of lowa's 11,000 chlamydia cases and 55 percent of lowa's 1,500 gonorrhea cases annually.

Recently, cases of infectious syphilis have increased significantly in Iowa. Since 2011, cases of infectious syphilis have increased 450 percent – growing from 31 cases in 2011 to 170 in 2013. Men who have sex with men (MSM) account for approximately 85 percent of cases.

Regular testing, even when symptoms are not present, is particularly important for infections that are often asymptomatic (e.g., chlamydia). Early detection and treatment of STDs are essential tools in protecting the health of those infected (by preventing serious, long-term consequences) and the health of others (by preventing transmission). For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/std/sam/

Geographic location and mental status effect on dental health

A recent MMWR study revealed that the lack of teeth (edentulism) for older adults is higher in rural locations than metropolitan areas, thus living in certain areas can have implications on dental health. For more information, visit:

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6313a7.htm?s cid=mm6313a7 w

A different study found that the mental health of adults (such as depression) was associated with a higher risk for the loss of teeth in older adults, in addition to living in rural locations. For more information, visit: www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/14/65

New field epidemiologist

We are happy to welcome Nick Kalas to the Field Epidemiology team in the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology. Nick will be covering portions of East Central Iowa.

Please see map for Field Epidemiologist coverage by county: www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=1C8BACD1-BFC1-4665-9234-EFDFA7B97124

Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update

The new issue of the Iowa Acute Disease Monthly Update is available by visiting www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/ and scrolling down to "Reports". This month's issue can also be accessed directly with the following

link: www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=A50052F4-A91E-4C4E-98C0-85813D3A9B60

Meeting announcements and training opportunities: Agricultural Medicine Course offered June 9-13, 2014

The course Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals (hosted by the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health at the University of Iowa, College of Public Health) will provide the information and skills needed to enable health and safety professionals to anticipate, recognize, and prevent occupational illnesses and injuries among members of the agricultural community. Scholarships are available. Course information is available at: cph.uiowa.edu/gpcah/training/lowa_Core_Course.html or contact Kay Mohling at 319-335-4219 or kay-mohling@uiowa.edu

Have a healthy and happy week!

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